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# THE HISTORIC HUTCHINS FAMILY

by

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## THE HISTORIC HUTCHINS FAMILY

The First Settlers of Somerset County -- Their Puritan  
Ancestors and the Coming of John Hutchins

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On August 19th occurred the fifth annual reunion of a family whose ancestral history is one of the most remarkable in existence in Somerset County, a family whose history dates directly and unquestionably back to the time of our Puritan forefathers and whose record since, up to, and including the present generations is of special interest to every man or woman of Hutchins lineage. The Hutchins family, or that part of the Hutchins family which convenes every year on a spot sacred to the memory of their ancestors, does not include all those who have sprung from the original Puritanic source, but that part of the family which has descended from the two brothers, Samuel and David Hutchins, who, coming from Massachusetts in 1783, settled each near the Carrabassett River, one on the present site of New Portland and the other directly below on a tract of land now known as a part of the town of Embden. This is of special interest since the first brother was among the first to take up habitation in Embden, and since the latter was the pioneer settler of the town of New Portland, the first white man to disturb the primitive grandeur of the then unbroken forests. So each year the sons and daughters descended from David and Samuel Hutchins convene in the valley of the Carrabassett just below East New Portland upon the spot known to be the site of David Hutchins' frontier log cabin, to "sing the songs their fathers sang" and renew "auld

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acquaintance" with appropriate exercises and festivities.

It is natural for us all to be interested in the affairs and fortunes of men of historic former times, and especially those times of which the page in history now tells the remarkable beginning of a still more remarkable existence -- the origin and growth of our own New England.

Hence we are going to tell briefly, yet as best we can from the documents and papers preserved to recent generations, about the first of the American Hutchins family and trace rapidly his descendants down to David and Samuel Hutchins, and after giving an account of their adventures tell something of the deeds of their sons and daughters.

It was 1636, and England was on the verge of civil strife. Persecution after persecution had driven the first band of Puritans to American soil sixteen years previous, and since, in spite of Charles the First's attempts to prevent emigration, company after company had sought the new soil for the same reason as the pilgrims who preceded them. So John Hutchins, whose name is a household word to all of his numerous descendants, at the age of thirty-two left his mother country and brought to the new world the first drop of Hutchins blood -- here to worship God as his Puritan faith prompted him. The "Friendship", in which vessel he sailed and of which he is said to have been ship's carpenter, landed on the coast of Massachusetts. The exact spot is not known. The new world, clothed in its many wonders, must have been a novel sight to him and it seems that at first he was almost at loss to determine whether to turn to seek his fortune and erect shelter for his house-



hold goods. The Plymouth Colony was then just emerging from a severe attack of the dreaded pestilence, smallpox, which had been subsequent to a series of long, bloody conflicts with the Indians. At this time signs of national existence were in evidence. A spark of life seemed to have appeared among the numerous colonists. A general court had been established, our pioneer institution of learning in that year was founded, and beholding this John Hutchins doubtless little imagined the wonderful development in store for his embryonic existence.

For five years subsequent to the landing of the "Friendship" little is known of Mr. Hutchins except that in 1638 he was married to a woman whose parentage is not known. Much of the time is supposed to have been spent in and about Boston. But soon the stern Puritan was attracted by the promising outlook then presented to colonists who would settle in that tract of land now known as Essex County, which first had been occupied by a few non-conformist families under Roger Conant, later re-enforced by another company under John White, the noted minister of Dorchester, England, and here we have the first historic evidence of his having settled after landing on the new coast. History tells us that the town of Newbury, Massachusetts, was given in 1642 to a company of 91 men, who, as original proprietors, cleared away the forests and made the first settlement. John Hutchins was among this ninety-one, and his name may be found today about half way down on the list which is still in existence at Newbury. At the bottom of this document reads the following: "December 7th, 1642. It is declared and ordered hereby according to the former intentions of the town that the persons only





above mentioned are acknowledged to be free holders by the town, and to have proportional rights in all waste lands, commons and rivers undisposed and such as by, from, or under them, or any of them or their heirs, have bought, granted and purchased from them or any of them, their right and title thereto and none else." It seems that later this tract of "waste lands" was divided and allotted to the different individuals. In a document entitled "Lots laid out in Newbury", dated January 11th, 1644, John Hutchins is number 34.

Previous to this time there had been born to Mrs. Hutchins four children. So here we find our Puritan settled in Newbury, here to earn by hard work a livelihood for wife and children from the newly cleared land and protect his family from the depredations of the treacherous Indians who were then settled in that region. To contend with every hardship common to this primitive land and new civilization today we look back upon as a colossal undertaking and few men of our time would care to experience such a task, but to live such a life was the lot of more than one colonist at that time, and despite care and danger John Hutchins was successful and prosperous, and, as far as we can learn, happy. While in Newbury two daughters and one son were added to the family.

In the year 1650 begins another epoch in his life. Previous to this time he had acquired property which was valued at four hundred and fifty pounds and a record of the valuation of his estate may yet be found. This of course was no meager sum for a man of the time. Whether to seek a place more in keeping with a small fortune or to find a place where were better opportunities for





fishing, it is not known, but at any rate in this year he moved to Haverhill and settled on the bank of the Charles River near the mouth of "Murrie Creek". There pursuing the occupation of fisherman and farmer he subsequently lived and reared his family. In Haverhill he passed the vicissitudes of an uneventful life. For a period of years he served as town constable and in the records of the General Court today may be found an item which granted to him twenty shillings for apprehending an Indian who had killed his squaw. In another place also is incorporated an item which granted to him several pounds of corn, which had fallen into his possession as collector of taxes.

In the records of the General Court is also found an interesting item concerning Mrs. Hutchins. In 1650 a law was enacted against "intolerable excess and bravery in dress", which limited the wearing of silk hoods, laces, etc., to those whose property was valued at more than two hundred pounds. It seems that Mrs. Hutchins' right to afford such dress had been challenged and that she had been brought before the court to answer for the charge, but that she was justified in her conduct is shown by the following item dated 1653: "The wife of John Hutchins of this town was presented to the Court this year for wearing a silk hood, but upon the testimony of her being brought up above the ordinary way was discharged."



Early Descendants of John Hutchins in Massachusetts --  
Revolutionary Record of the Hutchinses

John Hutchins, a leading and influential man of his town, died in 1674 at the age of seventy years, leaving a widow and six children. His will, which is still in the possession of his descendants and a copy of which may be found in the registry of probate, Essex County, Massachusetts, volume 304, page 164, is interesting for its extreme antiquity as well as its individual eccentricity. It reads as follows:

"Let it be known unto all men by these presents, that I, John Hutchins, of Haverhill, in ye county of Norfolk, Massachusetts, New England, being through God's mercy in indifferent health of body and of perfect memory, considering myne age and mortality, doe here make my last will and testament, commending my soul into the hands of my blessed Redeemer and for my worldly goods I dispose as followeth: --

"To my eldest son William Hutchins I formerly gave him a percell of land when he was married and therefore give him but twenty shillings.

"And to my son Joseph, I also gave a percell of land to which he now possesseth and alsoe I give him but twenty shillings.

"I also give to my daughter Elizabeth Aires (besides what she hath already) twenty shillings.

"I alsoe give to my daughter Love Sherborn, besides what she hath already, twenty shillings.



"And also I give to my son Benjamin Hutchins all ye land he now possesseth to which I formerly gave him and twenty shillings also.

"And I appoint Frances my wife to be the sole Executrix of this my last will and testament and my house and land yt now I do possess and enjoy both upland and meadow, with goods and chattels and all my land undisposed and I give to my sd wife during her natural life yt if she shall see cause for her own necessity rather than to suffer she shall have liberty to sell for her comfortable Livelyhood and att her decease to dispose of all att her discretion amongst my children my debts and funeral being discharged."

Dated June 24th, 1674.

John Hutchin.

Witnesses:

Anthony Somerby

William Titcomb

Anthony Somerby did on his oath testify that he saw John Hutchin sign, seal and declare the above written to be his last Will and Testament and set his hand as a Witness and also saw William Titcomb to set his hand as a Witness, March 30, 1686.

Before me, Jno. Koodbridge.

Authorized to take oaths in Newbury.

It is recorded that Frances, the widow of John Hutchins, died April 5th, 1694.

Excepting William, little is known of the sons and daughters of John Hutchins. Benjamin and Joseph both spent their lives in Haverhill. Samuel was married to Hannah Johnson of Bradford on the 24th of June, 1663, and afterwards became a resident of Haverhill. The



daughter Love married a sea captain, Samuel Sherborn, on the 15th of December, 1668. Elizabeth married John Ayer, Jr., who was one of the twelve original settlers in the wild woods of Pawtucket.

Fortunately, of William more is known. Fortunately, since he is in genealogical line with the Samuel and David Hutchins mentioned at the beginning of this article. William, who is referred to in his father's will as "myne eldest son", was born in 1638. His early years were spent in Newbury, where his father first took land, and afterwards he grew to manhood in Haverhill where he subsequently lived. On July 1st, 1660, he was married to Sarah Hardy whose ancestry can be traced back to England to the year 1010. William following in the steps of his father tilled the land, led a quiet life and died in his native town. At his death he left one daughter and five sons. Of these we are concerned only in John, who, named for his great-grandfather, was the grandfather of David and Samuel Hutchins. We are unable to tell much of John's early life. He was married to Elizabeth Hazeltine of his native town and directly after moved to Bradford where he reared his children and resided until his death, which took place in 1740. We know that he acquired during his life a considerable amount of property and his will, a copy of which is in the possession of the writer, provided amply for his nine progeny. John Hutchins, grandson of the Puritan who came from England, was the father of Samuel.

Samuel Hutchins was born in Bradford, April 10, 1705. The year 1728 found him married to Mercy Williams of Beverly, and for the next twenty-three years he lived in Bradford in charge of his estates. Not in keeping with the spirit of his forefathers so far





as we have known them, Samuel seemed ill content to live an uneventful life, but desired to see more of the world and seek untried paths. In 1748 he disposed of his property in Bradford and with a wife and eight children he undertook a perilous journey into the wilds of New Hampshire, doubtless hoping to acquire an enormous wealth among the "Granite Hills". He arrived safely at Nottingham and buying a tract of land, a deed of which is recorded in Essex Deeds, he lived upon it for three years, but the blustering climate and rugged soil of the primitive land were more difficult to contend with and far less congenial than he had anticipated. Three years of hardship ended his migratory experiment and, discouraged, he again turned toward the soft sea breeze of the Massachusetts coast. Having previously disposed of his land in Bradford, he was now induced to settle in Chelmsford and there we find him for the rest of his life, which was ended in 1760.

It was in Chelmsford that the two sons, David and Samuel, were born, the former March 26th, 1746, and the latter September 3d, 1749. In these we are particularly interested and to these more attention shall be devoted for, as previously stated, they were the pioneer settlers of one part of Somerset County, the first to bring the Hutchins blood to this State and the common ancestors of the many Maine Hutchinses who assemble in reunion each year.

Just thirty years before the Declaration of Independence and one hundred and ten after his grandfather, John Hutchins, sailed from England, David Hutchins was born. Chelmsford was his early home and here he lived until the war for independence changed his life and presented new fortunes. When his father died David was at



the immature age of fourteen. As near as can be determined from existing fragments of his early history, his boyhood days and the time until he reached the age of twenty-six were spent at home with his older brothers in the management of the property and care of the land left by his father. At this age he was married to Mary Emery of Carlisle, Massachusetts, and then follows the next epoch in his life which comprises eight years of residence in Chelmsford.

When Samuel was born his brother David was three years of age and naturally the early days of the two boys as well as those which followed were closely analogous. It is interesting to think of their early life. It is interesting to add in our minds to what is known of their lives and associate their daily conduct and thought with the thought and action common to that time, which now occupies a prominent and the most interesting part in our national history. That these boys were in spirit ardent supporters of the King's cause during the French and Indian war there is little reason for doubt, and we know that in turn they were equally ardent and enthusiastic allies of that power in America which eventually turned against and overthrew the authority of the same once loved crown of England. In tracing the life of an ancestor through such an epoch in our history the great contest seems more vivid and real to us, and we can sympathize more keenly with the infant colonies in their struggle which resulted in the birth of a great nation.

Samuel and David Hutchins, situated as they were but a few miles from Boston, the scene of the many preliminary disturbances and expressions of discontent which finally developed into a bloody



war, must have been intensely interested in the excitement and without doubt were more than once among those assembled in the "Cradle of Liberty" to applaud the words of Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Consequently, that Samuel and, perhaps, David Hutchins should have been among the first to volunteer their services for the impending struggle is not to be wondered at. Since Lexington and Concord were fought previous to the organization of the army we cannot prove by the record of enlisted men that David Hutchins was among those who

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood  
Fired the shot heard 'round the world",

but judging from traditions handed down and from the fact that at the time he resided very near there, we have little ground for disputing the statement.

Furthermore Samuel Hutchins has left in existence a record of connection with the Revolutionary battles, which may be found in the sixteenth volume of "Massachusetts State Archives", and a copy of which is before the writer.

A short time previous to the outbreak of the war (1773), the younger brother was married to Olive Robbins of his native town.

The wife, Olive, was a direct descendant from George Robbins and Mary, who coming from Scotland about 1670 were early settlers in Chelmsford; and George Robbins, who is referred to in Bodge's History of King Philip's War as one of the party from Chelmsford, who in 1675 plotted the death of a grandson of the well-known Indian Sachem Tahatawarre, was an uncle to Olive Robbins Hutchins. Jonathan, another uncle, was the famed Lieutenant Jonathan Robbins. He, it





will be remembered, was a member of the ill-fated Captain John Lovewell Company, who were killed by the band of Chief Paugus Indians in the Pequaket expedition at Fryeburg, Maine, May 8th, 1725.

In previous years Samuel Hutchins had learned the trade of carpenter and at this time naturally wished to seek a place better adapted to his vocation. The town of Temple, N. H., was young and rapidly growing and as it consequently appeared most favorable to the young carpenter he determined to ensconce his Penates in the Old Granite state. But hardly had he become settled when came the clash of arms. Enthused by the spirit of liberty which had been implanted in his mind from youth and was now aggravated by the bloodshed upon almost the spot of his former home, naturally enough he was among the first eighteen to enlist from Temple for the army. The date of his enlistment was May 6th, 1775. He was in Captain Ezra Towne's Company and Colonel James Reade's regiment. In a "list of enlisted men belonging to Temple" taken from "Massachusetts State Archives" he is described as follows: Age, 25; height, 5 feet, 8 inches; complexion, brown; eyes, blue; occupation, carpenter.

Reade's regiment formed a part of the New Hampshire troops who, history tells us, heard of the impending conflict while on the march from their native state toward Cambridge on the day before the battle of Bunker Hill and hastening toward the scene arrived at the critical moment. It will be remembered that these troops, one of whose number was Samuel Hutchins, occupied the battleground at the rail fence, which was situated near the foot of the hill. In the engagement Samuel Hutchins, having for protection the weakest defense on the field, was exposed to the most deadly fire of the





British, and descendants of his may well be proud of the remarkable courage he is said to have displayed on that historic day. During the engagement he received two wounds, not of a serious nature, yet such as to necessitate his retirement from service. After this time he is not known to have taken part in any battle, but is supposed to have resided in Chelmsford until 1780. At this date begins another epoch in his life.



## A Pioneer Moving -- The First Hutchins Settlers in Maine

The wife Olive earnestly desired that the family, which comprised herself, husband and two sons, should change its abode, and finally this plan was determined upon. Here David Hutchins again enters our history. It seems that Samuel wished his brother's family to accompany them on their frontier journey, and so the two families in the spring of that year made preparations for departure. In what direction should they turn their footsteps? Where should their new home be located? They thought the coast of Maine at this time might be a congenial region. After careful consideration the place then known as Damariscotta, now Alna, was determined upon as a destination, and the party, consisting of the Hutchins brothers, and their wives, Samuel's two sons and the four children of David, the youngest of whom was scarcely a year of age, set out upon their migratory journey. How the journey was made to the place now known as Head Tide, situated upon the Sheepscot River, in Lincoln County, is not known, but in all probability it was by boat from Newburyport, Massachusetts, to some point near Boothbay. At Head Tide the two families about the middle of the summer settled and the men prepared to till the soil, hunt game, and in other ways provide the necessities of life, which they supposed would henceforth be spent upon the coast of Maine. Here for a time all went well.

But their happiness was destined to be of short duration. The



red men, in which the coast of Maine then abounded, were not long in discovering the newly erected huts and white men's prints in the forest, and to allow these hostile newcomers to dwell in peace and live luxuriously upon the deer and fish which they deemed solely for themselves was quite contrary to their Indian nature. Before the first year had fairly passed away the aborigines were found exceedingly troublesome, and as time went on, instead of ceasing, these troublesome neighbors grew more vindictive for the encroachment of the white men. Depredation after depredation soon made existence in company with the Indians unendurable, and at the end of two years David and Samuel Hutchins found it necessary once more to move their household goods and seek another habitat.

Little was known at that time of the interior of the State, but it was hoped that farther up the Kennebec, which they knew emptied into the salt water near there, the Indians would be fewer and less troublesome. So, with no definite destination in view, they made preparations for a second and, as it proved, last long journey. Previous to this time their number had been increased by the birth to Olive of a son, Asahel, who was now little less than a year old. Inasmuch as they were unable to take their most valuable property with them, for a time it was a question to know where it should be secreted in safe keeping from the Indians, but at the suggestion of a supposed friendly Indian it was buried, and the services of the same friendly native having been secured to guide the company, the journey was commenced. The things which they were able to take with them were carefully packed into a chest, which is still in existence and kept by one of David Hutchins' descendants as an invaluable



memento, and choosing the easiest and most expeditious manner of travel, they embarked in the Indian's canoe to journey up the Kennebec. During the first day all went well and sundown found them about thirty miles from the mouth of the river. To encamp overnight was a necessity, and for this purpose the party went ashore. The Indian chose a favorable secluded spot near the bank of the river which offered shelter from wild beasts and, well pleased with the day's journey, the families of David and Samuel Hutchins prepared to rest for the night. Darkness was just coming on. The Indian, a supposed trustworthy guide and sharer in the perils and hardships of the journey, was stealthily watching the unmistrusting mother, Olive, and waiting an auspicious moment in which to carry out his previously plotted deed of treachery.

While the attention of the men was directed away, and at a moment when Olive could offer little resistance, the treacherous red man snatched the infant Asahel from his mother's arms and with a triumphant cry disappeared in the forest. To pursue in the darkness the fleetfooted Indian who knew every tree of the woods was useless and the disconcerted party could only stand amazed and helpless. Here on the bank of a little known river, surrounded by woods and water, were left the Hutchins pioneers, without guide or means of travel. All through the long dreary night, dejected and grief-stricken, they could only bewail their misfortunes and the dangers of their situation while the triumphant red man was gliding swiftly down the river in the canoe which so recently had been headed in a quite opposite direction.

When the morning had dawned and the pioneers were holding a





council to determine the course to be pursued an unexpected event put a new face upon their misfortunes. Almost as if by a miracle the Indian kidnapper stepped into the midst of the astonished gathering and revealed the infant Asahel safely sleeping in his arms. The Indian in evident disgust exclaimed: "Squaw got so many papoose, no want pale face boy too!"

With their copious grief soothed the pioneers resumed their journey, which without event on the third day took them to Bloomfield, now a part of Skowhegan. It was thought best since autumn was now at hand to leave the families there.

It would seem that Samuel and David Hutchins might have been content to remain at Bloomfield and here provide homes, but the same pioneer spirit which opened up the great West and fitted this immense part of our country for the use of civilization was in evidence in the case of the Hutchins brothers. Bringing the first Hutchins blood to the Pine Tree State, their love of adventure impelled them to push ahead and make re-echo the sound of the woodman's axe farther from the verge of civilization than any who had preceded them. So, late in the fall of 1782, the brothers, leaving their families in safety at Bloomfield, journeyed farther on to discover congenial spots for clearings. They rowed up the Kennebec to Madison, where that river is augmented by the waters of the Carrabassett, and thence up the latter stream to the town now known as Embden, a distance of twenty miles in all. Here by the side of the Carrabassett, an extensive interval, some six miles from the North Anson of today, was chosen by Samuel Hutchins as the site of a proposed farm and home, and at once he began the colossal task of



clearing it of trees, in order that on the following spring the land might be productive.

Traversing farther up the Carrabassett another site of equal desirability was found and David Hutchins, following his brother's example began to fell trees, well pleased with the prospect. This interval, now a part of a valuable farm, was situated one mile above the place chosen by his brother, and in the town of New Portland. To clear a tract of land of size sufficient to insure an abundance of crops for the following season, it is needless to say, was an arduous task, but in those days men toiled with a vim. Many an autumn-tinged elm and maple had succumbed to the blows of the sturdy axeman and the Hutchins pioneers were able, ere the cold weather arrived, to necessitate a cessation of labor, to look with pride upon two large spots of clearing in the otherwise unbroken forest.

In the following March, with their families, they took the last trip, and leaving Bloomfield on the crust of snow came to the place cleared by them on the preceding autumn. They erected log huts on their respective clearings, and the families, after three years of perilous wandering, were safely ensconced. Shortly after the settlement in Somerset County, David and Samuel returned to Alna to bring the chest of valuables which had been buried upon the departure from that place. Whether the brothers were unable to find the exact spot of the treasure, or whether the chest had been discovered and stolen by the friendly Indian, it was never known.

Of Samuel's history after settling in Embden few events are of importance. In 1788 he was removed by death and Olive subsequently married, remained in her home and reared her family. Samuel Hutchins, carpenter, pioneer farmer, and veteran of Bunker Hill, lies



buried on his native homestead, a beautiful interval now owned by D. W. Caswell, and a farm said to be equal in productiveness to any in Somerset County.

It is strongly believed that he was the first white man to settle in Embden, and a daughter born to Olive in the succeeding year is known to be the first white child in that town.



New Portland's First White Family -- A Frontier Home  
-- Children of David Hutchins

David Hutchins' frontier cabin stood on a picturesque spot commanding the interval of one hundred acres which constituted his farm. Today both interval and site of his cabin are owned by Charles H. Nye, one of his descendants.

The rude log hut was the first white man's shelter to be erected in New Portland, this family was the first to settle in that town, and it is thought that David Hutchins was the first white man to step upon its soil.

Although the privations and troubles of the primitive land were many, to provide food for his family of five children was not so difficult a task as it might seem. Tradition which has been handed down asserts that then the land about this cabin abounded in game, and that the river which faced his home was teeming in fine salmon. Aside from this, in a few years the interval, which to this day remains especially fertile, was very productive and nourished abundant crops of corn and potatoes. But to grind the corn was a more difficult task. It is said that on frequent occasions David Hutchins with a bushel of corn upon his back traveled twenty miles to Norridgewock, where was found the nearest mill. The danger from wild animals was great and it was not safe for any of the family to venture out after nightfall.

On the whole but little trouble was given the Hutchins brothers by Indians. But a short distance from David's hut was encamped a





chief named Pierpole and a band of Norridgewock Indians, but they were friendly for the most part.

David Hutchins was the father of eleven children, who will be mentioned briefly later. He died on the native homestead in 1822, at the age of 78 years. His wife, Mary, lived twenty-three years after her husband's death and died at the good old age of 93. The two now lie buried at East New Portland but a short distance from the spot where they lived and died, and upon the simple stone that marks the place where they lie is written the following inscription, composed in after years by their son, James:

"They've run the race and won the crown,  
They, the first settlers of the town.  
They endured much through toil and pain,  
But now they've gone in peace to reign."

Asamuel, who in his infancy shared with his parents the perils of the journey from Chelmsford to the Carrabassett, and the first son of Samuel, while spending his early days on his father's farm in Embden became interested in the study of medicine. In those days it was not necessary for the medicine man to have a knowledge of Latin and Greek and be a graduate of some authorized medical institution, but to study with some physician for a length of time and gain a little knowledge of drugs and pills was deemed a sufficient foundation for a skilled and successful practice.

So in this manner Asamuel Hutchins became the first physician by the name of Hutchins in America, and, settling in New Portland, the adjoining town, was recognized as the pioneer doctor of that part of the country. For years his primitive case of remedies was the only relief from ills known to the settlers of New Portland and his name was a universal household word. Dr. Hutchins held a successful



practice for many years and died honored and respected by all.

The daughter, Asenath, who was born shortly before the migration from Massachusetts, married John Smith of New Portland and lived pursuing the duties of a farmer's wife. A son born to Asenath named Samuel, so called for his grandfather, subsequently became a successful merchant and leading man of his town.

The son, Asahel, who was kidnapped by the Indian, settled on the homestead left by the father at his death, tilled the land and died there. He became and remained for many years the captain of the militia.

Sally, the youngest daughter of Samuel, married Captain Reuben Hill of Candia, N. H., and afterward became the mother of the well-known Colonel Warren Hill.

The sons and daughters of David and Mary Hutchins for the most part settled in New Portland and there reared their respective families. It has been said that for a generation, beginning about 1825, the inhabitants of the town were fully half descendants of David and Samuel.

Eliakim, the oldest son, was a huntsman, and 29 years of his life were spent near the Gulf of St. Lawrence in search of game. Mary, the oldest daughter, married John Churchill of her native town, and descendants of hers yet may be found there.

Emery Hutchins, who was born in Chelmsford in 1777 before his father came to Maine in 1780, grew up, married and settled in New Portland. In 1812 he enlisted as private from that town and was among those troops who were sent to New York State to guard the boundary line between the United States and Canada. After having



served a year and several months he was killed in the service on Nov. 12th, 1813. He left at his death a widow and five children.

Mary, the second daughter, married William Churchill of Mars Hill, and subsequently lived there.

In connection with the town of New Portland, James is probably the best known of any of David's sons. Eight weeks comprised the extent of his schooling and yet, with what he was able to learn by himself, he was considered a young man of good education and was looked up to as a leading man of the town. For years he was on the board of selectmen, and finally became the people's choice for representative to the State Legislature. Aside from this he is said to have been a man of unusually good judgment, and whenever any question of importance arose in regard to town or county affairs the word of James Hutchins had much weight. Mr. Hutchins, born in 1781, was married in 1816 to Cynthia Parker, daughter of Captain Josiah Parker, who was the second settler of the town and a man who had previously served in Washington's bodyguard.

David, junior, who comes next in order and who was the first white child born in New Portland, settled in town as a farmer. An interesting incident told concerning him and Chief Pierpole, who has been previously mentioned, shows his remarkable courage. At the time of the incident David, junior, age fifteen years, was living with his father. It seems that in some deal between him and Pierpole the latter was to receive a quantity of potatoes. David, junior, happened to be at the hut of the red man one day when Pierpole demanded the promised potatoes. David truthfully replied that they had already been delivered, whereupon the chief denied it in



emphatic terms. A quarrel was about to ensue when the squaw, Hannah Lussup Pierpole, evidently fearful of the result, by a sign gave the boy to understand that the articles under dispute would be found under the "forestick". Instantly he seized the "poking-stick" and with a sudden thrust scattered the potatoes upon the mud floor. The enraged red man, whose treachery was now exposed, arose and rushed upon the white youth. David, young in years but mature in strength, a giant of brawn and muscle, and as fearless as he was strong, raised the poker and sternly commanded the lusty Indian to halt. The chief-tain, thinking "discretion the better part of valor", submissively retreated.

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The son William died young. Hollis Hutchins settled in Lexington, an adjoining town, and was a leading man there.

Samuel, who like his brother James was a well educated man for the time, settled in New Portland and spent the better part of four score years as a minister of the gospel. He began preaching when a mere boy and is said to have shown marked talent. Later he became a leader in his profession and for years was considered among the foremost clergymen in the State. He was one of the influential men to organize the denomination of Repository Free Will Baptists, and doubtless became more widely known than any of his brothers or sisters. In his younger days he taught school with marked success. Before his death he became honored with the office of representative to the Legislature of Maine. Reverend Samuel Hutchins is remembered by many and is spoken of in words of respect and praise.

A cut of Samuel Hutchins appeared in last week's magazine in connection with this series.





Asaph, the youngest son, was the only one of the family to settle outside of the State. In his early years he went South, where he was married. Ultimately he moved to Louisiana where he died. Otherwise little is known of him.

Sarah, the youngest of the large family, married William Everett and lived her days uneventfully in New Portland.

The descendants of these sons and daughters of David Hutchins are now scattered in many towns. Many of them yet remain in Embden and New Portland, the towns whose first visitors were their common ancestors. To trace the history of all these descendants would be a difficult task, consequently we are going to mention only a few and some who, since the days of the sons of the Hutchins brothers, have attained some degree of importance among their fellow men or to whom particular interest is attached.



Honorable Revolutionary Record and Patriots of the Civil  
War -- Eminence in the Professional and Business World

Few families can boast of a better, cleaner, and more extensive record in the service of their country than the one of which we are writing. That they have ever been loyal and enthusiastic supporters of the Stars and Stripes from the Revolution to the present day cannot be doubted. Of the descendants of David and Samuel Hutchins the writer has record of twenty-two who served their country in the war of the Rebellion. Many of these lost their lives in the service, some fell on historic battle fields, while others returned, and six of the number yet live to tell the story of the most awful war our nation has ever suffered. Those of the family who enlisted from New Portland are Lendall Hutchins of the 28th Maine Regiment; Captain Thomas Hutchins of the Company E, 8th Maine; Captain Charles Knapp, who became captain of the same company; Corydon Hutchins, a hospital nurse; Fred Hutchins; Asahel Hutchins, of the 28th Maine Regiment, now a resident in Biddeford; Enos Hutchins, of the 8th Maine Regiment, who was killed on the battlefield of Winchester; Orlando G. Churchill, who died in the service; Melvin E. Lovejoy, 28th Maine, now a resident in one of the Western states; Holder F. Butts, of the 28th Maine Regiment, now living in Hampden; George M. Churchill; Edwin B. Hill; Moses Thompson and Frank Thompson, of the 13th Maine Regiment; and Frank E. Hutchins, who was the son of Captain Thomas.

From Lexington Abel Hutchins enlisted in Brudan's Second Regiment



of Sharpshooters and was shot and killed at Fort Delaware in 1862. Sewall Hutchins enlisted from Portland and became captain of the 8th Maine Regiment, Company E. Melvin, Elias and Christopher Hutchins all enlisted from the Western States. Melvin of the 2nd Maine Infantry gave his life at Hall's Head. The other two returned and still live in the West.

Probably the best known of any of the Civil War patriots is Captain Charles K. Hutchins of the 16th Maine Regiment, grandson of Asa Samuel, the noted doctor. He was a graduate of Bowdoin College, a successful lawyer and a prominent speaker. He enlisted from Augusta in 1862 and was shot at the head of his men on the battlefield of Fredericksburg.

That many others of this family whom we are unable to name served in the Civil War there is little doubt.

In ecclesiastical work the Hutchins family have left no meager record. Those who have followed the profession of clergymen number about twelve.

Samuel Hutchins, the son of David, has already been mentioned as the pioneer minister of his native town.

Elias Hutchins, whose picture appeared in last week's number, the son of Eliakim, is still remembered by many and is now spoken of as one of the most talented and successful clergymen ever born in New Portland. At the early age of thirteen he was converted to the faith of the Free Will Baptists, and believing himself called of God to preach the divine teaching and being gifted to a rare degree of excellence in oratory, he began immediately to make evangelistic tours. He spoke so fluently and ably that his revival meetings were



wonderfully successful. He believed that in his daily conduct he was governed by the will of God and every inspiration for noble action he attributed to a superhuman power and dutifully obeyed. His prodigious faith and strength in God is well illustrated by the following: While on one of his evangelistic boyhood tours and stopping at the town of Farmington, it is related that certain men of a skeptical turn of mind, desiring to make sport of the youthful evangelist, accosted him and proceeded by careful argument to attempt to expose certain inconsistencies in the Bible and ridicule its teachings. For the boy to attempt to cope with maturer minds would have been futile. With bowed head he listened in silence for some minutes and, still refusing to reply to the abusive remarks, with sorrowed countenance fell to pacing the floor in meditation. Little baffled by his silence the men were continuing in their unpleasant manner when to their surprise the youth, as if impelled by divine Providence, began to sing. The clear, childish, pathetic voice and the youthful face uplifted in appeal touched the hearts of the unbelievers who ignominiously skulked away.

Mr. Hutchins later became a thoroughly well educated man and after he had pursued evangelistic work for a few years settled in Dover, New Hampshire, where he was induced to accept the office of managing director of the Morning Star, an ecclesiastical publication of great popularity.

Reverend Perkins Hutchins, whose descendants still live in Brighton, Maine, was another clergyman of ability and success. He was born in New Portland, the son of Emery Hutchins, who, as previously seen, lost his life in the war of 1812. His early life was







consequently subject to many disadvantages and hardships, but his enthusiastic zeal for learning overcame the many obstacles in his path, and at last he was the master of a good English education and deemed competent to preach the gospel, a work which he, like the Reverend Elias Hutchins who preceded him, believed had been sent before him by divine Providence. He became pastor of the Free Baptist church of Brighton, Maine, and there devoted his life's efforts, which by the older inhabitants of that town are still said to have been worthy of commendation and richly rewarded. A likeness of the Reverend Perkins Hutchins appeared last week.

Some of the other clergymen of this family who are still living are the Reverend Charles Hutchins, of Belgrade, son of Rev. Samuel Hutchins; Reverend Baxter Hutchins, of Phillips, a grandson of James, and the Reverend Leonard Hutchins of New Portland, a son of Hollis Hutchins mentioned above.

Rev. Leonard Hutchins, who now is retired from active work, for several years was pastor of the Free Baptist church of Garland, where he met with success. He has the name of being a well educated clergyman and able preacher.

Aside from these there are many men of Hutchins descent throughout the country who have attained some degree of prominence among their fellowmen. First and foremost among those worthy of mention stands James H. Baker, a graduate of Bates College, of Boulder, Colorado, the president of Colorado University and a well known educator of the West. President Baker is the son of Lucy Hutchins, who married Wesley Baker, and the grandson of James Hutchins previously mentioned. President Baker's career is well known to all and needs



no comment. That he is president of one of the largest institutions of learning in the West and that he formerly has been honored with the presidency of the National Educational Association are facts which speak for themselves.

Frank Everett, now a millionaire of one of the Western States, has also become a prominent man. His father was the William Everett who married Sarah, the daughter of David Hutchins. Mr. Everett is a well-known financier.

The Hutchins family is well represented in the business world by Carlos M. Foster of the American Hosiery Company of New York City. Mr. Foster is a son of Lydia, a daughter of Captain Asahel Hutchins.

The only living son of James Hutchins is Elias, a postmaster in his town. Mr. Hutchins, who is now in declining years, has held in years past some of the prominent offices of the town. He is a genial and pleasant man, whose firm character and staunch integrity have won for him the respect of all who know him. He is thoroughly acquainted with the history of his grandfather, David Hutchins, from stories told him by his grandmother years ago, as well as an authority on all matters pertaining to the family and to him the writer is indebted for much of the material for this story.

Dr. Jonathan Moore, a prominent physician of Solon, is the son of Asenath, who, it will be remembered, came as a little child with her father, Samuel, from Chelmsford. Dr. Moore, so far as it is now known, is the only physician living in that branch of the family.

Aside from all these mentioned there are scores of teachers of the younger generations scattered throughout the New England States. Many of these are college educated and some have become leading



instructors in institutions of importance. However, space will not permit of a further mention of names.

For many years it has been said by those who have known them that all whose names were Hutchins could be trusted. Inherent in the nature of each of the many descendants of Samuel and David Hutchins has been a spirit of sincerity and uprightness which their neighbors never doubted.

Many years ago when it was customary for a stranger desiring to hire a horse to deposit with the owner a sum of money as a guarantee, an unknown man is said to have applied for a horse at a certain inn situated in New Portland. After having secured the horse of the innkeeper, the stranger gave him his name and offered the customary guarantee. The innkeeper, to the man's surprise, replied: "Never mind the deposit. You said your name was Hutchins and, if that's the case, I know you're an honest man."

The history of the Hutchins family on the whole is one of unusual interest, and the writer ventures to assert that it is remarkable, in that few family histories can be traced by existing documents and authentic papers back to a period so remote without interruption or doubt as to date or credential.

(The End.)



# Family Record of Rev. Perkins Hutchins

<u>Names of Parents</u>	<u>Born -- When and Where</u>	<u>Married -- Where, by Whom, and When</u>	<u>Died -- When, and Where</u>
Perkins, son of Emery and Sally Hutchins.	Dec. 17, 1811, in New Portland, Me.	In Bangor, Me., by Lawyer Carr, Dec. 26, 1832.	Feb. 20, 1885 in Kingsbury Me.
Mary W., daughter of Noah and Lucy S. Bunker.	Dec. 12, 1811, in Brighton, Me.		Sept. 26, 1892 in Dexter, Me.
<u>Names of Children</u>			
Emery Hutchins	Nov. 14, 1833, in Bangor, Me.	In Fairview, Ill., Jan. 1, 1860.	In Zephyr- hills, Fla.
Sarah Hutchins	March 18, 1836, in New Portland, Me.	In Brighton, Me., by Rev. Perkins Hutchins, Oct. 31, 1852.	In Zephyr- hills, Fla.
Lucy J. Hutchins	August 29, 1838, in Brighton, Me.	In Brighton, Me.	In Auburn, Me.
Olive Hutchins	January 22, 1841, in Brighton, Me.	In Brighton, Me., by Rev. Perkins Hutchins, July 4, 1859.	Feb. 19, 1870 in Brighton, Me.
John A. Hutchins	Feb. 19, 1843, in Brighton, Me.	In Newtown, Ill., Dec. 25, 1867.	
Benjamin F. Hutchins	Sept. 5, 1845, in Moscow, Me.	In Wellington, Me., by Rev. C. Russell, Sept. 7, 1866.	In Freeport, Me.
Mercy A. Hutchins	Jan. 30, 1848, in Brighton, Me.	_____	May 28, 1861, in Brighton, Me.
Tryphena E. Hutchins	Nov. 18, 1850, in Brighton, Me.	In Brighton, Me., Jan. 1, 1868.	
Albert P. Hutchins	May 10, 1853, in Brighton, Me.	_____	Sept. 1, 1854, in Brighton, Me.
Charles Hutchins	Dec. 18, 1855, in Brighton, Me.	_____	June 27, 1861, in Brighton, Me.







John Hutchins -- Married Mary Ann Quigg  
Charles (died)  
John (died)  
Cora (Mrs. R.O. Fasley, Dexter, Maine.)  
Nettie



Emery Hutchins -- Married (1) Eliza Campbell

Laura Adonella  
Mary E.  
Olive Frances  
Annis Edora  
William Franklin

Married (2) Mrs. Sarah (?)

(No children)

Sarah Hutchins -- Married James Cooley

Nelson  
George  
Nellie  
Fred  
Mary Ann

Lucy J. Hutchins -- Married Samuel Foss

Flora  
Guy  
Alonzo  
Chauncy  
(?) Daughter

Olive Hutchins -- Married Fred Thombs

Charles  
Albert  
(?)

Benjamin F. Hutchins -- Married Sarah Abbey

Adelbert Emery  
Harry Clinton  
Velzora Undine  
Tina May  
Francis Albert  
Flora Eleanor  
Annie Aura  
Grace Louise  
(?) Myra

Tryphena E. Hutchins -- Married William Abbey

Eva  
William  
Claude  
Ivan  
Charles















